

# State of South Dakota

## EIGHTY-FIRST SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2006

572M0690

### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Introduced by: Senators Smidt, Adelstein, Bartling, Duniphan, Hanson (Gary), Knudson, Lintz, and McCracken and Representatives Tidemann, Haverly, Heineman, Hunhoff, Murschel, O'Brien, Roberts, Schafer, Sebert, and Van Norman

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting youth mentoring programs for South Dakota.

2 WHEREAS, January is National Mentoring Month which is a project organized by the  
3 Harvard Mentoring Project and MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership that began in  
4 January 2002; and

5 WHEREAS, the 2006 National Mentoring Month initiative is led in collaboration with Big  
6 Brothers Big Sisters of America and in South Dakota with the Alliance for Boys and Girls  
7 Clubs; and

8 WHEREAS, National Mentoring Month attempts to raise awareness of mentoring in its  
9 various forms, recruit individuals to be mentors, and promote the rapid growth of mentoring by  
10 recruiting organizations to engage their constituents in mentoring; and

11 WHEREAS, President Bush issued a proclamation designating January 2006 as National  
12 Mentoring Month, stating, "Mentors help children resist peer pressure, achieve results in school,  
13 stay off drugs, and make the right choices. Many people become mentors because of the impact  
14 of a mentor in their own lives, creating a chain of compassion over the course of generations.";   
15 and



1 WHEREAS, large numbers of our nation's youth face difficult circumstances: one in four  
2 lives in a single-parent home, one in ten is born to teen-aged parents, one in five lives in  
3 poverty, and one in ten will not finish high school; and

4 WHEREAS, mentoring has been shown to combat these problems by matching a caring,  
5 responsible adult with a child to provide guidance, stability, confidence, and direction for the  
6 child, which can result in improved school attendance and graduation rates and decreasing  
7 involvement with substance abuse and violent behavior; and

8 WHEREAS, it is estimated that seventeen million six hundred thousand young people in the  
9 United States are in need of mentoring, while a National Mentoring Poll indicates that fifty-  
10 seven million American adults would consider mentoring young people, which identifies the  
11 need to find methods of matching available mentoring resources with those who would benefit  
12 from a mentoring program; and

13 WHEREAS, an expanded mentoring program in South Dakota would be a valuable resource  
14 for many of our state's young people and would benefit all of our communities. The former  
15 President Clinton urged Boomers to "Share what you know. Become a mentor."; and

16 WHEREAS, mentoring in South Dakota would be enhanced through the formation of a  
17 State Mentoring Partnership for South Dakota and affiliation with the National Mentoring  
18 Partnership:

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Eighty-First Legislature of the State  
20 of South Dakota, the House of Representative concurring therein, that the South Dakota  
21 Legislature supports and encourages the establishment and enhancement of mentoring programs  
22 for the young people of this state; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Legislature supports the formation  
24 of a State Mentoring Partnership and an affiliation with the National Mentoring Partnership.